(c) The completion of project will depend on timely availability of funds, development of necessary infrastructure and procurement of required hardware.

Outstanding telephone dues

†1657. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the outstanding dues pertaining to telephone bills and other items of BSNL and MTNL, till date;

(b) whether it is a fact that BSNL and MTNL have decided to seek cooperation of departmental employees and others on Commission basis to recover the outstanding bills;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when, it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) As on 31.03.2002 the amount outstanding for over three months old bills and other items in respect of BSNL and MTNL is as under.

Rs. in crores

	Telephones	Other items
BSNL	2310	185
MTNL	860	73

(b) to (d) An incentive scheme for its staff for recovery of the old outstanding dues against closed connections was in operation in BSNL till 31.03.02.

MTNL is allowing incentive to its staff against realization of old outstanding dues against closed connections as per following rates:

(a) dues over 10 years old	25%
(b) dues between 5 to 10 years old	20%
(c) dues between 2 to 5 years old	15%
(d) dues over 1 year but less than 2 year old	5%

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

For realizing old outstanding dues, BSNL has issued instructions for utilizing the services of Police/Revenue and other Departments of the State Govt. on commission basis up to 1.5% of the recovered amount per case.

Modernisation of Post Offices

1658. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the post offices that were modernized during the last five years, State-wise;

(b) the details of the funds allocated for modernization of post offices during the current year;

(c) whether any target has been set by Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The details of the post offices that were modernized during the last five years, State-wise is attached as per the Statement. (*See* below)

(b) An outlay of Rs. 1.5 crores has been allocated during the current year (2002-2003) for improving the Ergonomics of post offices as a part of modernization.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. 100 Post Offices across the country have been identified under current Annual Plan (2002-2003).

Statement

State-wise details of modernisation of Post Offices during last five years

Sl. No.	Circle	Total
1	2	3
1.	Assam	55
2.	A.P.	50